Free trade zone at Visakhapatnam

979. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to set up a Free Trade Zone at Visakhapatnam has been pending for a long time;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in setting up the same; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) No, Sir. The setting up of the Export Processing Zone at Visakhapatnam has already been approved by the Government and notified on 15-3-1989.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The basic infrastructure for the Zone is likely to be completd in two years. However, applications for setting up of units in the Zone would be entertained by end of his financial year.

Export of onion and garlic

980. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken for the export of onion and garlic;

(b) whether these items are being mainly exported to Arab countries;

(c) what steps have been taken to produce that variety of onion which is liked by the people in western countries; and

(d) whether the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has recommended any steps to be taken to increase the export of onion and garlic?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) A statement is attached. (See below).

(c) Indian Agricultural Research Institute and Associated Development Foundation are making efforts for dveloping seeds for white and yellow varieties of conion preferred by the Western countries.

(d) The Indian Agricultural Research Institute has not recommended any specific steps to increase the export of onion and garlic. However, export oriented research on vegetable crops in general and onion and garlic in particular is one of their priority areas of research.

Statement

Steps taken by Government for the export of onion and garlic

Export of onion is canalised through NAFED. Trade is also associated in its export. Since canalisation during 1974-75, continued efforts have been made by NAFED to maximise onion export from the country in terms of quantity and value. Export of onion is not only confined to Arab countries but it is also exported to Malaysia, Singapore, Maldives, Srilanka, Seychelles, Mauritius, Bangladesh Nepal and USSR.

Garlic is exported by individual exporters who are having Spices Board's certificate of registration as exporter of spices. Major quantity of Garlic is exported to Asian countries such as Bangla Desh and Sri Lanka. Exports are also effected to Arab countries like UAE, and Kuwait. The Spices Board is taking a number of measures to increase export of spices including garlic such as sponsoring of sales-cum-study delegation, publicity programmes in WANA, West Europe and USA for popularising Indian spices etc.

Production of steel by private sector

981. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what quantity of steel is being produced by the private sector at present;